injecting an injection molding compound into the mold after cutting the decorative part, which upon curing permanently bonds to the decorative part;

opening the mold; and

removing the covering or trim part and molded-on carrier from the mold,

wherein the closing of the mold comprises simultaneously cutting and fitting the decorative part to the second part of the mold.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested for Claims 28-36 in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 2-27 have been cancelled. Claim 36 has been amended to independent form.

The rejections of Claim 2-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a) are respectfully deemed moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 2-11.

Claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP '747 in view of Kato et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. "Stamping" has been amended to "fitting" to more accurately claim the invention. As seen in the specification, starting at page 8, line 21 to page 9, line 19, and more particularly, page 9, lines 13-15, the decorative part is pushed via the cutting edge 9 until it has arrived on an interior bottom surface 12 of the injection mold. Thus, the more accurate limitation "fitting" is used.

Neither JP '747 nor Kato et al. teaches or suggests the closing of the mold comprises simultaneously cutting and fitting the decorative part to the second part of the mold. As shown in JP '747 in Figures 1-3, a sandwich mold tree? must be used to hold the film cut by the core 4 to operate. Once the core has cut the film f, a simple interlocking of the cavity 1 in the core takes place, as shown in Figure 2. Thus, a closing of the mold to thereby move a cutting edge provided on a first part of the mold past an inside wall area of the second part of the mold and thereby cutting the decorative part to a precise shape by shearing off an outer edge of the decorative part is not shown. The second part of the mold, which has the decorative part fitted therein, is not the sandwich mold in JP '747. Likewise, Kato et al. does not teach such a limitation. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over the cited references, as noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

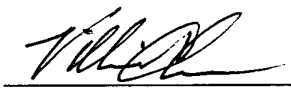
The arguments against the combination of JP '747 and Kato et al., as previously submitted, are reiterated. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Since Claims 28-35 depend from Claim 36, Claims 28-35 are also patentably distinguishable over the cited references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #225/47721).

Respectfully submitted,



Donald D. Evenson
Registration No. 26,160
William G. Ackerman
Registration No. 45,320

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

DDE:WGA:sbh
CAM 038738.47721US

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 28-33, 35, and 36 as follows:

28. (Amended) The method according to Claim [27] 36, wherein the injection molding takes place at a temperature of approximately 150°C.

29. (Amended) The method according to Claim [27] 36 , wherein the mold has a temperature of 150°C.

30. (Amended) The method according to Claim [27] 36 , further comprising placing a nonwoven coating saturated with phenol melamine resin and a layer of glue on the veneer wood layer.

31. (Amended) The method according to Claim [27] 36 , further comprising placing a layer of glue on the veneer wood layer.

32. (Amended) The method according to Claim [27] 36 , further comprising placing a layer of blind veneer on the veneer wood layer.

33. (Amended) The method according to Claim [27] 36 , further comprising:

applying a coupling layer to the backside of the sheet metal part; and

heating or activating the coupling layer with the injection molding compound.

35. (Amended) The method according to Claim [27] 36 , further comprising embedding fastening elements for the covering or trim part in the injection molding compound.

36. (Amended) [The method according to Claim 27,] A method for making a covering or trim part with a directly molded-on carrier, comprising:

placing a decorative part having a veneer wood layer or sheet metal part in an at least two-part injection mold;

closing the mold, thereby moving a cutting edge provided on a first part of the mold past an inside wall area of a second part of the mold and thereby cutting the decorative part to a precise shape by shearing off an outer edge of the decorative part;

injecting an injection molding compound into the mold after cutting the decorative part, which upon curing permanently bonds to the decorative part;

opening the mold; and

removing the covering or trim part and molded-on carrier from the mold,

wherein the closing of the mold comprises simultaneously cutting and [stamping] fitting the [décor] decorative part to the second part of the mold.